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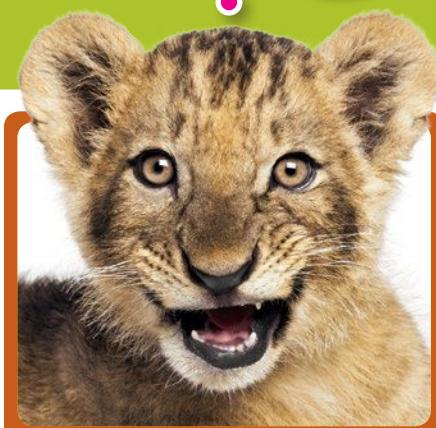


SURPRISES!

CHOOSE
YOUR OWN
AVATAR!

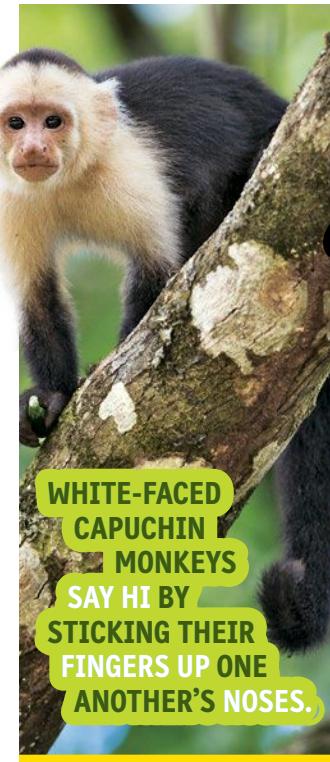


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JOKES!

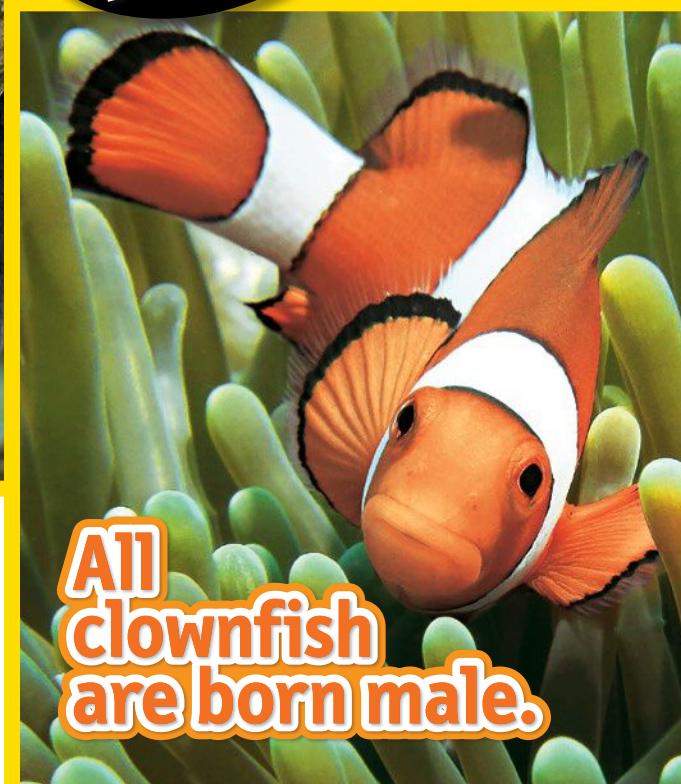
Check out these outrageous facts.



WHITE-FACED CAPUCHIN MONKEYS SAY HI BY STICKING THEIR FINGERS UP ONE ANOTHER'S NOSES.



Wild strawberries can be yellow.



IN AUSTRALIA, “BLUEY” IS A NICKNAME FOR REDHEADS.

AN OLYMPIC WRESTLING MATCH ONCE LASTED 11 HOURS.

SCIENTISTS THINK THAT WATER ON THE MOON CAME FROM EARTH.



GET MORE!



Book and App

DARE to EXPLORE

BY C.M. TOMLIN

Photographer **Cory Richards** journeys to some of the most remote and dangerous spots on Earth to snap pictures of people and places. He chats with *NG Kids* about what it takes to get a great shot.



WANT TO BE A PHOTOGRAPHER?

STUDY: Photography, anthropology, and geology

WATCH: The documentary *Cave People of the Himalaya*

READ: *Banner in the Sky* by James Ramsey Ullman

“One time I was rappelling, or descending by rope, down a seaside cliff in Spain to photograph some climbers. Suddenly the rock that my rope was anchored to at the top of the cliff broke away. My stomach lurched as I went into a free fall, plummeting 50 feet into the ocean. Once I hit the water, the heavy camera equipment strapped to my body dragged me under the waves. With my heart hammering, I freed myself from the gear and swam to the surface. My cameras were ruined, but I was alive.”

“Working as a photographer can be a nonstop adventure. My career has taken me to every terrain imaginable, from icy peaks in Asia to the vast plains of Africa to coral reefs in the South Pacific Ocean. I’ve snapped pictures of people scaling mountains, diving, and skiing across Antarctica. I love using photography to show the incredible things humans are capable of doing.”

“Getting the right shot involves creativity and sometimes danger. As a photographer, you have to be ready to take chances but also know when to back away in order to stay safe. As long as you’re willing to explore the world around you, you’ll have plenty of opportunities to take great photographs. Stay open to new experiences, and you’ll never be disappointed.”

RICHARDS' STUNNING PHOTOGRAPHY



CANADA



SPAIN



EUROPE'S CRIMEAN PENINSULA

THESE ARE PEOPLE!

RICHARDS SCALES A PEAK IN THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS IN CANADA ON A PHOTO EXPEDITION.

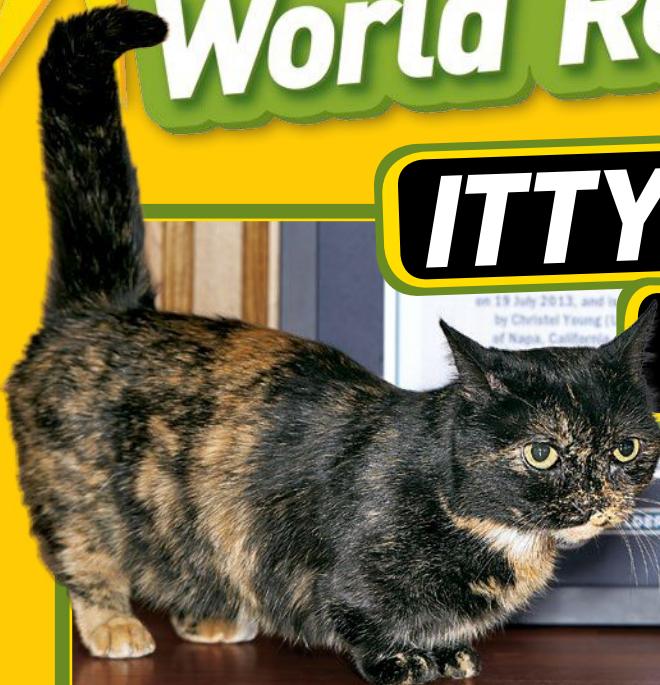
NOW SHOWING
Watch videos of adventurers on the new series
BUSHWACKED!
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“Don’t let obstacles discourage you from reaching your goals. Anything is possible if you put your heart into it.”

ASTONISHING
STORIES FROM
THE FILES OF

Guinness World Records

BY ANGELA MODANY



ITY BITTY KITTY



Lillieput may be the world's shortest cat, but she doesn't let her other feline friends get in her way—she just runs right under them! Lillieput, which is a breed of cat known as a munchkin, is less than six inches tall at her shoulders. That's barely taller than a soda can.

EYE-POPPING RECORD!

Your eyes might bulge when you see this. Kim Goodman can pop out her eyes almost a half inch beyond her eye sockets. Goodman discovered the talent when she was accidentally hit on the head (she wasn't hurt) and now can pop her peepers any time she wants. This is definitely something you have to see to believe.



MORE RECORDS!

Go online for more information about
Guinness World Records.
natgeo.com/kids/worldrecords

CHRYSLER BUILDING,
NEW YORK CITY

EIFFEL TOWER,
PARIS, FRANCE

TOWER OF TOOTHPICKS

It makes sense that the world's tallest toothpick structure looks like the world's tallest building. Stan Munro used more than 250,000 toothpicks and 3 gallons of glue to create a 16-foot, 8-inch replica of Burj Khalifa, a 2,717-foot tower in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (a country in the Middle East). Munro built his wooden structure in four main pieces, which took three people and two ladders to assemble. Hope he keeps it away from any strong breezes.



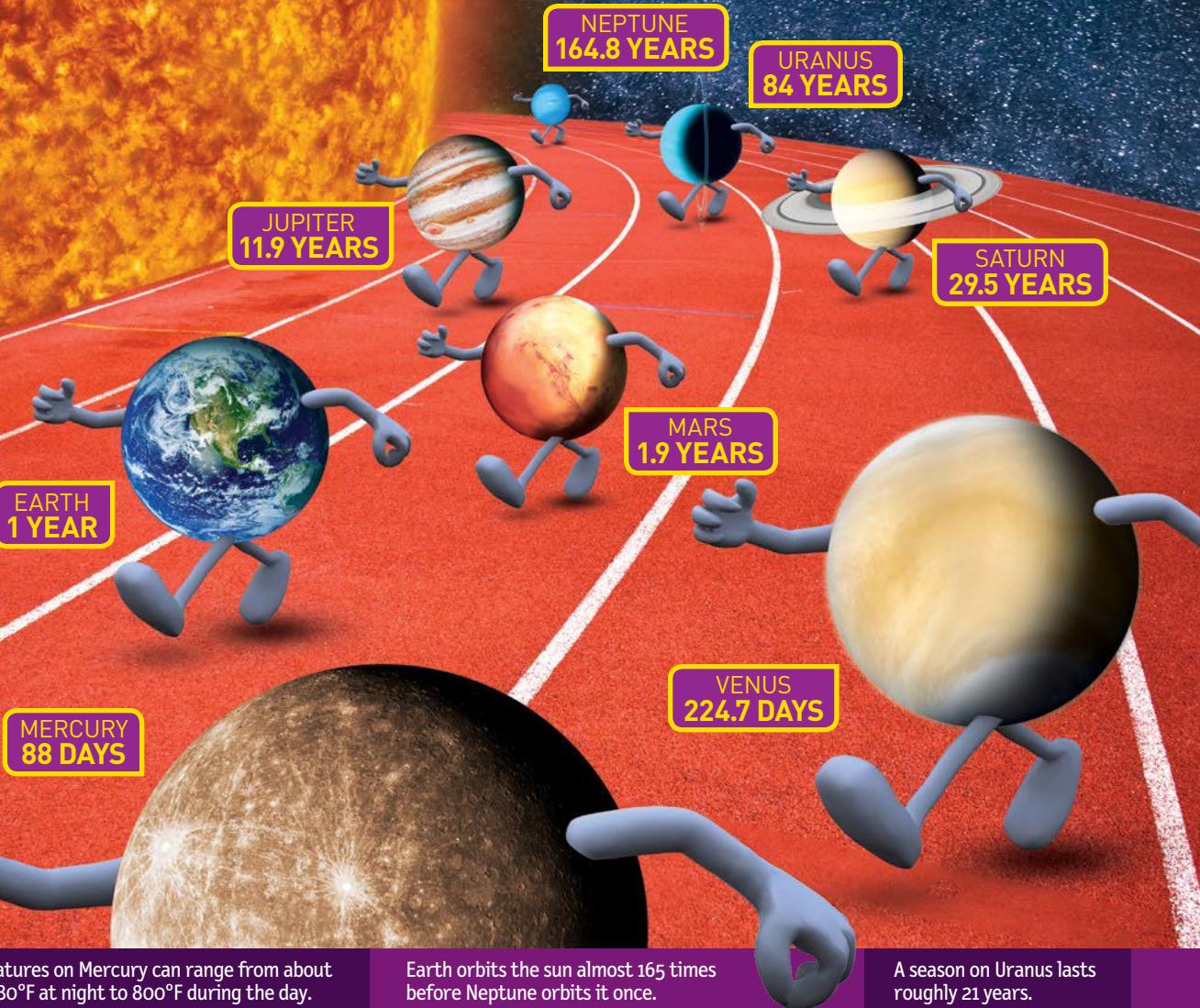
By the Numbers SOLAR SYSTEM

BY JULIE BEER AND MICHELLE HARRIS

Check out how long it would take for the planets in our solar system to race around the sun if they were runners on a track.

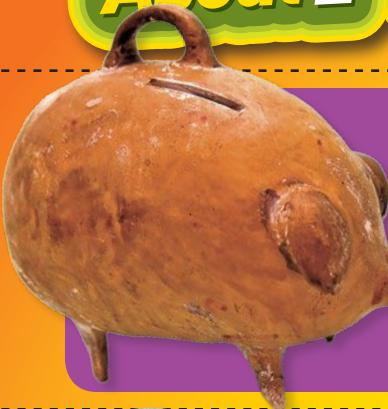
Psst! Did you notice that the planets seem too close to the sun—and to each other? You're right! To help show how long it takes each planet to fully orbit the sun, we fudged a little and illustrated the planets as if they were running a race—instead of showing their correct distances. To find out their *real* distances from the sun and each other, go online to check out a video and get even more scoop on our solar system.

natgeo.com/kids/solar-system



ALL About MONEY!

BY KRISTIN BAIRD RATTINI



SOME OF THE OLDEST PIGGY BANKS IN THE WORLD WERE MADE AROUND THE 15TH CENTURY.

A 1,400-YEAR-OLD coin sold for \$5.76 MILLION, one of the most expensive coins ever.

Coins issued by the United States in 1787 had the words "MIND YOUR BUSINESS" on one side.

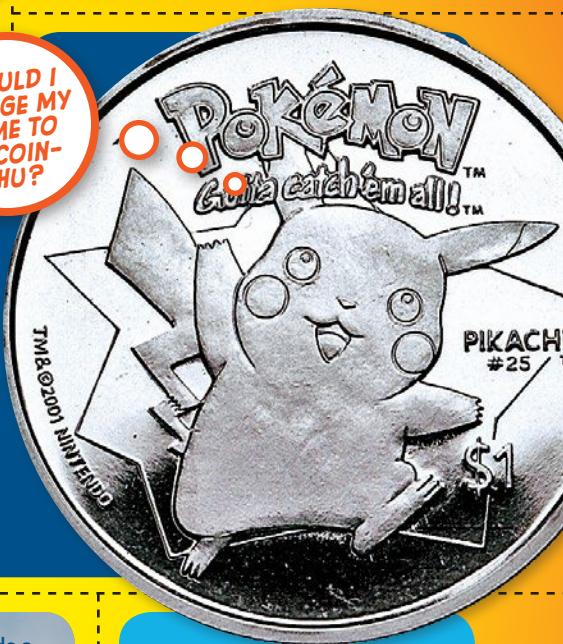


ETHIOPIAN COINS DATED 1977 WERE ACTUALLY ISSUED IN 1984. THE COUNTRY FOLLOWS A CALENDAR THAT'S NEARLY 8 YEARS EARLIER THAN WESTERN ONES.



The small TOOTH-SHAPED designs that circle the edges of some coins are called DENTICLES.

PIKACHU and other POKÉMON characters appear on dollar coins IN NIUE, an island some 1,500 miles from New Zealand.



BELARUS ISSUED A 20-RUBEL COLLECTOR'S COIN WITH A PICTURE OF POTATO PANCAKES ON ONE SIDE.



POTATO PANCAKES

The Bank of England holds a 100-MILLION-pound note called A TITAN.



CHECK OUT THE BOOK!



MONEY TIP!

IF YOU SET ASIDE ONE DIME EACH DAY, AT YEAR'S END YOU'LL HAVE \$36.50. THAT'S ENOUGH TO BUY A VIDEO GAME OR DOWNLOAD A NEW SONG EACH DAY FOR A MONTH.



wild vacation



SLEEP HERE!

COOL THINGS ABOUT TURKEY

Dating from A.D. 537, the famous Hagia Sophia was built as a church, turned into a mosque, and is now a museum.

Early Turkish settlers once lived in the caves of the Cappadocia region.

Yogurt was invented in Turkey and is a main ingredient in local food—from soups to desserts.

King Midas may not have really turned all he touched into gold. But he did rule over the kingdom of Phrygia, in what is now Turkey, in the eighth century B.C.

Cave Hotel YUNAK EVLERİ HOTEL

WHERE Cappadocia region, Turkey

HOW MUCH about \$180 to \$250 a night

WHY IT'S COOL Here's a hotel that really rocks. The Yunak Evleri is built into caves left by volcanic activity ten million years ago. Follow narrow passageways and stone stairs to rooms that are a cool 57°F. Spend the day hiking rocky terrain, exploring caverns, or hot-air ballooning over "fairy chimneys"—tall rock formations that dot the skyline. At night you won't have to worry about being awakened by eruptions since the Cappadocia volcanoes are now dormant. So they're "sleeping," too!

THINGS TO DO IN TURKEY

Ride a camel to tour the bizarre rock formations around Cappadocia.

Wander the ruins of the Temple of Artemis, built more than 2,500 years ago for the Greek goddess of hunting.

Haggle with shopkeepers in the bustling market of Istanbul's Grand Bazaar.

Take a boat ride up the Bosphorus strait to get from Asia to Europe in 15 minutes.

Bet you didn't know

BY ALLYSON SHAW

7

facts to sound off about

1 A sound like popping popcorn is made by some radio signals coming from Jupiter.

2 The Parma wallaby makes coughing noises to communicate with a mate.

3 The longest recorded echo lasted for nearly 2 minutes.

4 An orchestra in the Washington, D.C., area performs only music from video games.

5 Certain sand dunes occasionally hum.

6 Hot water and cold water make different sounds when poured.

7 The western diamondback rattlesnake can vibrate its rattle about 60 times a second.



EXTREME WEIRDNESS

from
AROUND
the WORLD

BY KAY BOATNER



HOW BIG IS
THE HAIR
DRYER?

ATTACK OF THE COMB

WHAT Weird haircuts

WHERE Changsha, China

DETAILS Answer carefully if you're ever asked if you want a free haircut. A pair of hairstylists offered complimentary trims to city residents. But their styling tools were a three-foot-long comb and oversize scissors! One brave volunteer had her hair snipped in front of a crowd. That new 'do definitely wasn't a don't.



DUDE STOMPS CITY

WHAT City diorama

WHERE Moscow, Russia

DETAILS This guy better watch where he steps. Some 300 workers created this 60-foot-wide, mostly plastic model of the Russian capital. The diorama traveled the world as part of a road show celebrating the country's history. The mini-Moscow even comes equipped with daytime and nighttime lighting. What, no traffic?

MUST BE
GODZILLA'S
LESSER KNOWN
RUSSIAN
FRIEND.

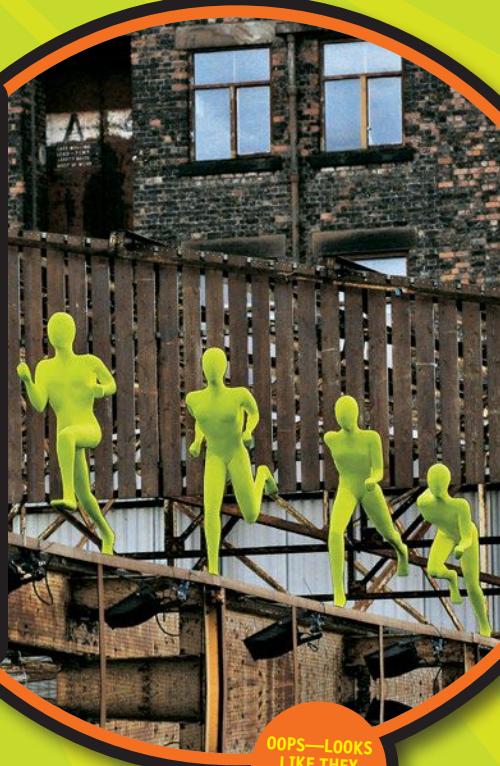


RUNNERS TURN GREEN

WHAT Running sculptures

WHERE Liverpool, England

DETAILS Talk about going nowhere fast. This athletic-themed installation, dubbed "The Runner," was one of several pieces in a citywide art festival. Positioned above a parking garage, the sprinters honor Liverpool's past Olympic contenders. On your mark, get set, go!



OOPS—LOOKS
LIKE THEY
FORGOT THEIR
SHOES.



FLOATING PINK MOUSE

WHAT Inflatable rodent

WHERE Lyon, France

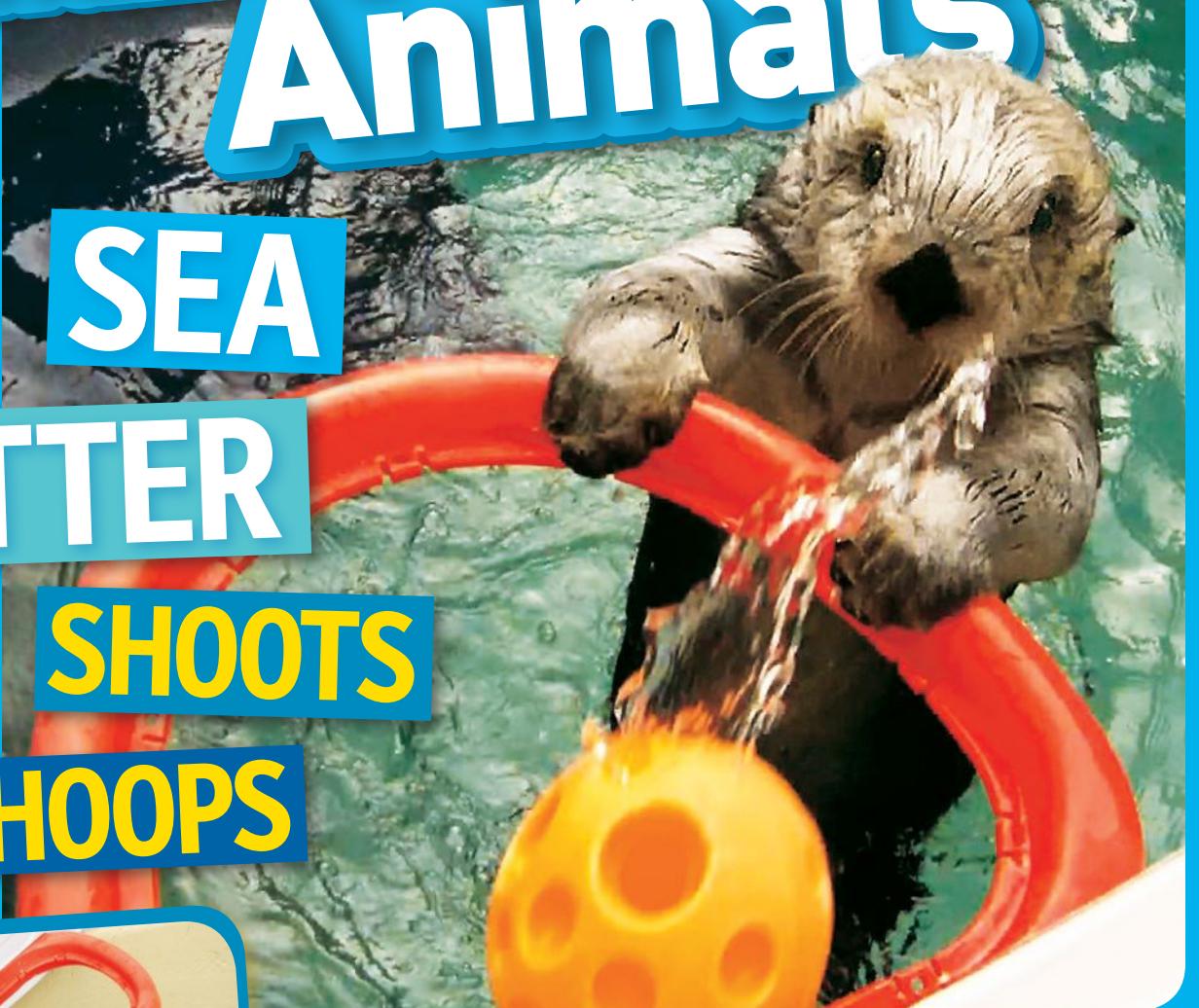
DETAILS No way this guy is fitting through a mouse hole. It's 64 times bigger than an average mouse—and it's inflatable. The 32-foot-long, 16-foot-wide pink mouse floated in the Rhône River to promote flood awareness. Is there a giant piece of cheese nearby?



WONDER
IF HE
SNORKELS.

Amazing Animals

SEA
OTTER
SHOOTS
HOOPS



LEBRON
JAMES
“OTTER”
WATCH
OUT.

NOW
SHOWING
EDDIE
THE OTTER
natgeo.com/kids/video

Portland, Oregon

Someone alert the NBA: Eddie the sea otter is ready to go pro. His keepers at the Oregon Zoo taught the 16-year-old marine mammal to play basketball as a way to keep his arthritis from getting worse. Since he learned to shoot hoops, Eddie tosses anything he can get his paws on—especially his doggie chew toys—into the basket.

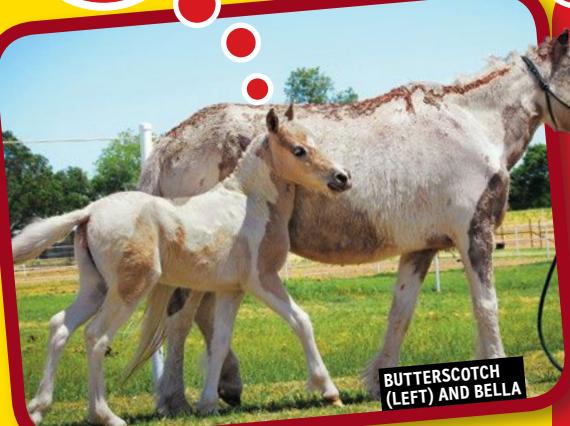
“In the wild, sea otters like Eddie would do a similar behavior we call the spy hop,” says Jenny DeGroot, Eddie’s keeper and trainer. “They come straight up out of the water, above the waves, to get a look around.”

But at the zoo, Eddie’s on the lookout for something else. If he scores a basket he gets a tasty treat, such as shrimp or clams. Swish!

—Kitson Jazynka

WE'RE
BACK
IN THE
SADDLE!

HERO HORSE



BUTTERSCOTCH
(LEFT) AND BELLA

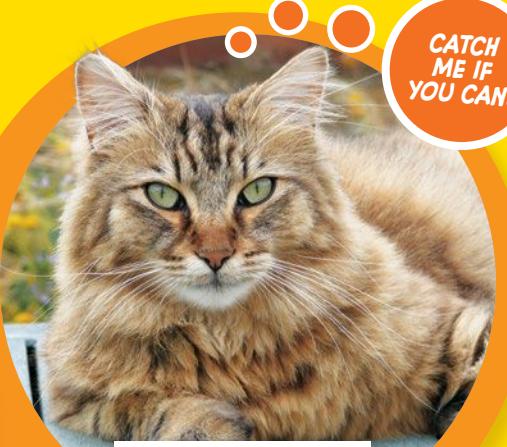
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CATCH
ME IF
YOU CAN.



NORRIS'S HAUL



REAL-LIFE CAT BURGLAR

Bristol, England

The sneaky thief breaks into his neighbors' homes at night, prowling for loot. When his yellow-green eyes spot something he likes, he nabs it before going out the way he came in—through the pet door. The four-footed crook? Norris the tabby cat.

The furry offender has pinched hundreds of items, dragging his finds into his owners' kitchen and meowing as he admires his stash. Among his spoils are T-shirts, a pair of pants, oven mitts, sponges, and even half a pizza.

"We don't often hear of cats stealing objects from neighbors," cat behavior expert Mikel Delgado says. "The most likely explanation is that this is a form of hunting behavior, but he's hunting human objects instead of prey."

What happens to all the stolen items? Owner Richard Windsor sent a letter to his neighbors, filling them in on the robberies and inviting them to retrieve their lost goods. "The note just made them giggle," Windsor says. "Norris now has friends all over the neighborhood."

—Kitson Jazynka



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MISSION
ANIMAL RESCUE

Save ANIMALS >>
Save the WORLD

SEA TURTLES



A lost and freezing loggerhead gets help from warmhearted volunteers.

BY SCOTT ELDER

The freezing sea turtle can barely manage another stroke as she struggles to keep herself warm in the frigid water. Chilly autumn weather has hit Cape Cod Bay off Massachusetts, and now this reptile is suffering from the turtle version of human hypothermia—when body temperature falls below normal levels. Her strength is fading very fast.

After one more sweep of her front limbs, she goes limp. Bobbing lifelessly on the surface of the water, her fate depends on the direction of the wind. If she is blown seaward, she won't survive. Luckily the wind propels her toward land, and she washes up on Crosby Beach. Sapped of energy, the turtle lies motionless in the sand. She's still bitterly cold. If she doesn't get help soon, she won't have a chance.

LIFEGUARDS ARRIVE

Taking a morning stroll along the beach, Brian Long spots what appears to be a large boulder near the water's edge. As he gets closer he realizes that the rock-like object is actually a big turtle. The sea creature is so still, Long can't tell if she's

From hatching to adult, this animal increases its weight by more than 6,000 times.

alive. He immediately phones the Massachusetts Audubon Society, a conservation organization. The call reaches director Bob Prescott, who rushes to the beach in a pickup truck.

Once at the scene, Prescott identifies the two-and-a-half-foot-long creature as a loggerhead sea turtle. An endangered species, these turtles spend their summers in the north and their winters in warmer southern waters. "This loggerhead probably got lost while navigating down the coast and missed the chance to migrate before cold weather set in," Prescott says.

The animal's eyes are closed, and she's not visibly breathing. To check if the turtle is still alive, Prescott gently touches her neck. Slowly the big-beaked reptile raises her

THE WEAK TURTLE ARRIVES AT THE REHAB CENTER.



TRAVELING TURTLE



TRAVELING TURTLE

THE RESCUED LOG-GERHEAD WAS FOUND ON THE SHORES OF CAPE COD BAY (1). SHE WAS TAKEN TO THE NEW ENGLAND AQUARIUM IN MASSACHUSETTS FOR REHAB (2). MONTHS LATER SHE TRAVELED BY PLANE TO THE GEORGIA SEA TURTLE CENTER (3). FINALLY SHE WAS RELEASED IN THE WATERS OFF FLORIDA (4).



head. She's hanging on but urgently needs medical care.

The two men hoist the over 150-pound animal onto a cart that Prescott wheeled out to the shore. Then they pull the cart to Prescott's truck and place the turtle onto a soft pad in the back. Prescott wants to take the frail loggerhead to a turtle rehabilitation center about an hour away. But he knows the animal would be uncomfortable traveling all that way in the open truck bed, where she'd be exposed to the cold. So Prescott drives the turtle to the nearby Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, where vets give her an initial examination. Then a volunteer with an SUV brings the loggerhead to the New England Aquarium in Boston, Massachusetts, where the turtle can begin her recovery.

Some Pacific loggerheads migrate over 7,500 miles between nesting beaches.

A cooler loggerhead nest will produce more male hatchlings, while a warmer one will produce more females.

TURTLE TREATMENT

Each fall the New England Aquarium's sea turtle rehab center helps 80 to 100 sea turtles with dangerously low body temperatures. Check out the techniques used at this "turtle hospital" to treat the shelled patients.

AN INSIDE LOOK

Upon arrival, turtles are x-rayed and their heart rates are measured with a heart monitor.

X-RAY OF BISCUITS'S SKULL



SOUND HEALTH

Vets sometimes use an instrument that sends sound waves into a turtle's body and records data about how the sounds echo off tissue and internal organs. The data are used to create images of the turtle's insides. This is called an ultrasound, and it helps vets learn if turtles have internal injuries.

STRESS TESTS

Just like many other animals (including humans) turtles produce certain hormones, or chemicals, when they're stressed. The hospital measures these hormones in the bloodstreams of certain cold-stunned turtles to find out their stress levels.



LASER THERAPY

Staff may beam a special laser into an injured turtle's body to help it heal. The laser stimulates the animal's blood flow and prompts its cells to start repairing damaged areas.

STROKE OF LUCK

Very weak cold-stunned patients are initially kept in comfy crates instead of water tanks. Every day they take a dip in kiddie pools filled with only a few inches of H₂O so they can safely practice their strokes. After several "workouts" the turtles are usually ready to enter the larger tanks.



IT TAKES A GROUP OF CARETAKERS TO LIFT BISCUITS INTO HER POOL AT THE NEW ENGLAND AQUARIUM'S REHAB CENTER.

SHELL-SHOCKED

At the aquarium's marine animal rehabilitation center, staff give the loggerhead, thought to be around 20 years old, a checkup. The turtle, now named Biscuits, weighs in at 165 pounds—normal for an adult human male but slightly underweight for a loggerhead of Biscuits's age. The exam shows that Biscuits has several other health problems. The freezing seawater damaged the turtle's skin, causing her to develop open wounds. She's dehydrated, and an x-ray shows that she has pneumonia.

But the rehabbers' most pressing concern is that Biscuits has been cold-stunned. This is a condition that affects reptiles if their temperatures drop too low. As their bodies cool, the animals' blood circulation slows. The limited blood flow causes the animals to go into shock. They enter a coma-like state, practically unable to move. Biscuits is one of hundreds of sea turtles

At least 30,000 female loggerheads have been estimated to nest each year on Masirah Island in the Middle Eastern country of Oman.

that become cold-stunned in Cape Cod Bay each year. Now her caretakers' goal is to raise her body temperature from an extremely low 48°F to between 70°F and 80°F. But it won't be easy. "We have to heat up the turtle very gradually," says Adam Kennedy, a rehabber and biologist at the aquarium. "Warming her too quickly could be just as deadly as not warming her at all." A six-person team lifts Biscuits into a five-foot-long, temperature-controlled pool set to 55°F. Each day the rehabbers raise the thermostat by five degrees. As the temperature rises, Biscuits begins to move normally again. To help her regain energy, the staff offer healthy meals of fish and squid. At first she won't eat a bite of the grub. But after three days the loggerhead starts nibbling on the food she's provided. To rehydrate the animal, the caretakers give her daily injections of nutrient-filled fluids. Biscuits also receives antibiotics for her pneumonia and a soothing ointment for her wounded skin. "She

NOW SHOWING
**BABY
LOGGERHEADS**
natgeo.com/kids/video

SAVE ANIMALS,
SAVE THE WORLD

National Geographic Kids has an initiative called **Mission: Animal Rescue** to show kids how to save endangered animals such as loggerhead sea turtles. You can help too. Try out these cool rescue activities.

looks much better, and you can tell she feels better too," Kennedy says.

TURTLE TAKEOFF

By the time the water hits 75°F, Biscuits can be moved into the larger rehab tank. Soon she's swimming slow, graceful laps in her 24-foot-long pool. Kennedy is thrilled by her progress but not that surprised. "We call loggerheads 'tanks' because they're such tough animals," he says. "Biscuits shows just how resilient they are."

But the turtle's rehab isn't finished. Now that she's stable, caretakers will send Biscuits to the Georgia Sea Turtle Center on Jekyll Island, which is located closer to her release site. Here the staff will continue to prepare her for reentry into the wild.

Two and a half months after her rescue, aquarium staff load Biscuits into a cushioned crate and place her in a heated van. Then she's driven with three other recovering turtles to a small airport where they will take off for Georgia. To make the turtles' trip as quick and stress free as possible, a pilot has volunteered to fly them down in a private jet.

After the nearly three-hour flight, Biscuits and the other turtles are transported to the center. Biscuits is placed in a ten-by-ten-foot circular tank where she can continue practicing

A single loggerhead's shell can be home to as many as a hundred tiny plants and animals.

her swimming strokes. The loggerhead is fed a steady diet of fish, squid, and shrimp, which staff scatter around the tank. Caretakers also put live blue crabs and horseshoe crabs in her tank so she can get used to catching prey again. These critters are some of a loggerhead's favorite foods in the wild. Biscuits quickly remembers how to snatch up the tasty treats in



GEORGIA SEA TURTLE CENTER STAFF UNLOAD BISCUITS FROM THE PLANE.

her beak, though she leaves a bit of a mess after a meal. "She's not exactly a tidy eater," says Terry Norton, head of the center. "But she's clearly enjoying these familiar snacks."

BACK TO THE SEA

A month later Norton decides Biscuits is ready to return to the ocean. She's heavier, now weighing 180 pounds, and has proven she can catch live prey. Norton and a team of rehabbers drive Biscuits about 85 miles south to Little Talbot State Park in Florida. Arriving at the release site, Biscuits becomes more active, moving around in her crate. It's almost as if she senses that she's close to home. "I think she can smell the ocean," Norton says. When the team lowers her onto the sand at the water's edge, she immediately crawls into the crashing waves and swims off. "It's an amazing sight," Norton says. "Everything we do is for this moment—when a rescued animal gets back to the wild."

BISCUITS RETURNS TO THE SEA.



These turtles may live for 50 years or more in the wild.



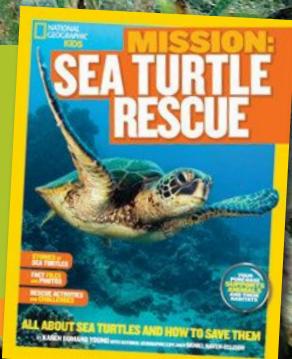
Organize a turtle-themed bake sale to raise money for sea turtles. You can decorate cookies, cupcakes, and other treats to look like these animals. Inform your customers about the threat to sea turtles.

Check with your local aquarium to see if you can volunteer. Some aquariums near the coast organize beach walks to look for stranded sea turtles. Ask if you can join that effort.

Some sea turtles swim thousands of miles each year. Choose a type of sea turtle, and plot its annual route on a map. Decorate the map with pictures and facts, and show it to friends.

Check out the National Geographic Kids book series **Mission: Animal Rescue**. For more information on the initiative or to donate to the cause, grab a parent and go online.

natgeo.com/kids/mission-animal-rescue



WACKY RESTAURANTS

Get a taste of these odd eateries.

CHECK OUT THE BOOK!



BY APRIL CAPOCHINO MYERS

Some restaurants serve up more than just good food—they provide an unforgettable atmosphere. *NG Kids* got the dish on a few of the wackiest eateries on Earth.

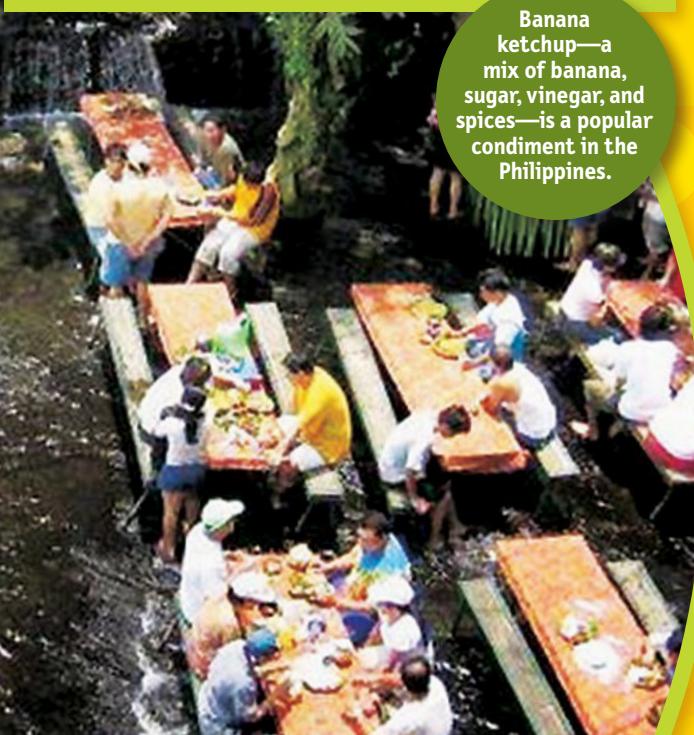
FOOD FALLS

San Pablo City, Philippines

The Waterfall Restaurant is pretty splashy—this outdoor eatery is located at the bottom of Labasin Falls, an artificial waterfall. The floor of the dining area, which is part of a resort, is covered in several inches of water. Upon arrival, barefoot guests wade ankle-deep from leaf-covered buffet stations to bamboo tables just a few feet from the surging stream. After sampling curries, meats, and rice, you can take a dip in the waterfall. It's hard not to gush about this place.



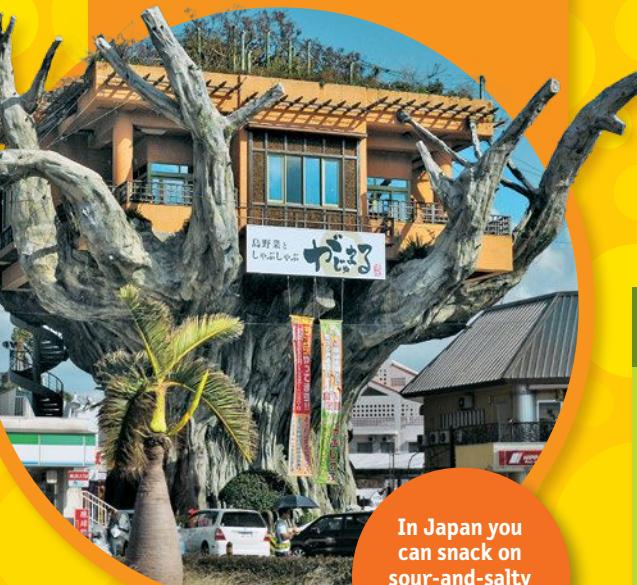
Banana ketchup—a mix of banana, sugar, vinegar, and spices—is a popular condiment in the Philippines.



TREE GRUB

Okinawa, Japan

Guests visiting the Gajumaru diner are going out on a limb—literally. The restaurant sits atop an artificial tree made of concrete. Vines wind around the fake tree, and greenery covers the eatery's roof, adding to the treetop feel. To get to the dining area, visitors enter through a door in the trunk and hop on an elevator. At 20 feet in the air, the restaurant offers stunning views of the nearby harbor as well as dishes such as shabu-shabu, or thinly sliced meat cooked in broth. Now that's taking eating out to new heights.



In Japan you can snack on sour-and-salty dried fruit called *umeboshi*.

Grown in the Maldives, the Scotch bonnet chili pepper can be 140 times spicier than some of the mildest jalapeños.



DINING VROOM

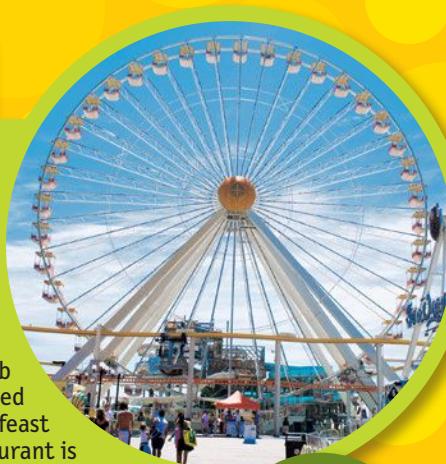
Salzburg, Austria

Gear up for an amazing dining experience. Architect Markus Voglreiter built this restaurant to resemble a huge Volkswagen Beetle and named it The Car, Das Auto. Seating over 300 people, the car-like venue includes headlamp-shaped windows and a giant license plate. Inside, diners can feast in one of the eatery's "wheels," which even have fake rims—the circular metal frames that hold a car's tires. It cost about two million dollars to create the building. Luckily this auto-shaped restaurant is really going places.

MEAL IN A WHEEL

Wildwood, New Jersey

Breakfast is a breeze at this restaurant. Visitors to Breakfast in the Sky travel 150 feet in the air on a beachside Ferris wheel while devouring gourmet food such as shrimp-and-lobster omelets. Chef Wally Jurusz and his team cook all the meals inside a converted funnel cake stand on the nearby boardwalk, then bring the grub to the Ferris wheel. After guests get settled on the ride, they take off for an hour-long feast overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. The restaurant is only open from late July through August, but it sure puts a new spin on the morning meal.



Salt-water taffy likely originated in New Jersey.

UNDERSEA EATERY

Rangali Island, Maldives

Something's fishy about this restaurant, located 16 feet under the Indian Ocean. Made with a clear material called acrylic, the tunnel-shaped venue gives diners a close-up look at manta rays, sharks, and other marine animals as they swim by. Named Ithaa, the eatery was built on land in the Southeast Asian country of Singapore and shipped to the Maldives, an island nation. Then 85 tons of sand were placed in the structure to sink it onto steel columns that had been installed in the seabed. Finally it was secured to the columns with concrete. Diners enter Ithaa from an enclosed staircase that connects to a jetty, then enjoy food such as caviar with a side of an amazing view.

Austria's Moststrasse—loosely translated as "Cider Road"—takes you 124 miles through pear orchards.

Lifestyles of the RICH and FURRY

BY PATRICIA J. MURPHY

rom canine country clubs to tabby tiaras, pets today are living in the lap of luxury. Last year pet owners spent about \$58 billion—almost twice what they spent in 2002—on supplies and services to pamper their pets.

“Pets improve our lives,” says Bob Vetere of the American Pet Products Association. “So we want to improve theirs.” *NG Kids* tracks just how far some owners go to give their pets the royal treatment.

Outrageous ways to pamper your pet



WHAT TO WEAR

When Selena Gomez and Amanda Seyfried need fashion for their dogs, they don't have to look far. That's because many stores now cater exclusively to the pampered pet. At Fifi & Romeo (left) in Los Angeles, California, dogs in hand-made cashmere sweaters and colorful raincoats are considered fashionable, not funny-looking. Then there's Enchanted Home Pet, which designs pet furniture. From ultra-plush miniature sofas to comfy outdoor air beds, these doggie resting spots are sure to please the most finicky pooch.

Will your pet be less happy if you don't shower it with expensive stuff?

Absolutely not! “As long as your pet has food, comfort, and friendship, that's what's most important,” says pet psychologist John C. Wright.

IN THE HOUSE

Skeeter the cairn terrier hangs out in a two-story doghouse with floor-to-ceiling windows, heated floors, and air-conditioning. It's just one of many custom-made cribs owners are building specially for their pets. "One owner asked for a cat house with a separate dining room, litter box room, and bedroom," says Michelle Pollak of La Petite Maison, which builds luxury pet homes (right). "Some pet owners spare nothing to make sure their pets are comfortable and happy."



KENNEL—OR VACATION?

Sampson the Yorkshire terrier loves a good massage. His sister, Delilah, likes to get her toenails painted. They can do it all at the Olde Towne Pet Resort in Virginia (below, both), one of many "pet spas" around the country. More like luxury hotels than kennels, these places offer pets private limos, movies such as *Cats and Dogs*, and whirlpool-like tubs. Cats also are "feline" good as they watch birds from picture windows. Pet spas are popular with celebs too. Christina Aguilera takes her pooches to a "ranch" with a bone-shaped swimming pool!



PET TECH

Think you're tech-savvy? With all the gadgets owners are buying for their pets, some animals may have you beat. Munchkin the Persian cat drinks from a never ending water flow from her Drinkwell Pet Fountain. Some owners even set up webcams so their pets can watch them at work. And Petzila, a company dedicated to connecting pets with their owners, offers a device that allows away-from-home owners to see, talk to, and surprise a pet with a treat—all through Wi-Fi and the click of an app.



Pampering your pet could cost you an arm and a paw!

LUXURY SUITE AT PET SPA	\$110 A NIGHT*
PROFESSIONAL MASSAGE	\$35
CUSTOM-BUILT DOGHOUSE	\$10,000
HAND-KNITTED SWEATER	\$280
GOURMET DOG TREATS	\$6.99 FOR 13 OUNCES

MEREDITH PARMELEE / STONE / GETTY IMAGES (CAT); YOSHISUGU KIMURA / FIFI & ROMEO, COURTESY OF LA PETITE MAISON (DOG MANSION); BRITT ERLANSON / THE IMAGE BANK / GETTY IMAGES (DOGS IN CHAIRS); JAMES KEGLEY (DOG AT POOL, DOG WITH GROOMER); COURTESY OF THREE DOG BAKERY LLC (DOG TREATS); AUGUSTUS BUTERA / TAXI / GETTY IMAGES (DOG WITH SUNGLASSES)

*Prices are approximate

BLUE VOLCANO



BY RENEE SKELTON

The night is pitch-black. But the dark slopes of a hill inside the crater of Kawah Ijen volcano in Indonesia, a country in Asia, are lit up like a holiday light show. Tourists flock to the volcano to see what look like glowing blue rivers of lava. But they aren't rivers of lava. They're rivers of glowing sulfur.

BURNING BLUE

Glowing red lava flowing from an erupting volcano isn't unusual. Glowing sulfur is. Hot, sulfur-rich gases escape constantly from cracks called fumaroles in Kawah Ijen's crater. The gases cool when they hit the air. Some condense into liquid sulfur, which flows down the hillside. When the sulfur and leftover gases ignite, they burn bright blue and light up the night sky.

Scientists were told that sulfur miners on the volcano sometimes use torches to ignite the sulfur. The blue flames make Kawah Ijen popular with tourists, who watch from a safe distance. Recently scientists confirmed that some of the sulfur and gases also burn naturally, igniting as hot gases combine with oxygen in the air.

VOLCANO MINERS

Sulfur is a common volcanic gas, and its chemical properties are used to manufacture many things, such as rubber. But it's so plentiful in Kawah Ijen's crater that miners make a dangerous daily trek into the crater to collect sulfur from a fumarole near an acid lake.

"The local people pipe the gases from the fumarole through ceramic pipes," says John Pallister, a geologist with the Cascades Volcano Observatory in Washington State. He has walked into the crater himself, wearing a gas mask for protection against the clouds of acid that rise from the lake. "They spray the pipes with water from a spring," he says. This cools the gases and causes them to condense into molten sulfur. The sulfur then cools and hardens into rock.

Using this method, miners get more usable rock faster than if they just collected scattered pieces. They smash up the rock with metal bars, stuff the pieces into baskets, and carry them out of the crater on their backs. The loads are heavy—between 100 and 200 pounds apiece.

READING THE DANGER ZONE

Miners face another danger: a huge eruption. Kawah Ijen's last big eruption was almost 200 years ago, but the volcano is still active. A big eruption could endanger hundreds of miners and tourists.

Indonesian scientists want to find a way to predict a big eruption in time to keep everyone safe. But the deep acid lake makes it difficult to pick up the usual signals that warn of a coming volcanic eruption.

For example, certain gases are usually more abundant right before an eruption. But in this lake, those gases dissolve in the deep water before they can register on the geologist's monitoring equipment.

As scientists search for ways to predict this unusual volcano's behavior, Kawah Ijen's blue fires continue to attract audiences who appreciate the volcano's amazing glow.

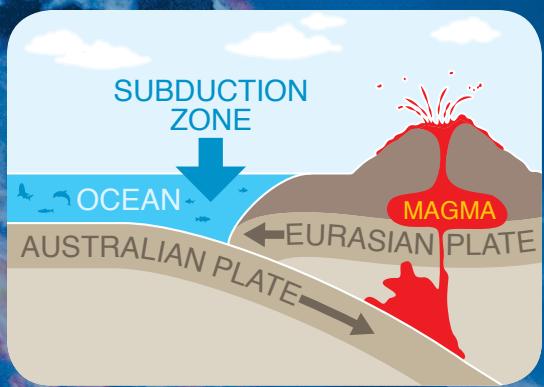
CANO

A strange eruption creates a dazzling light show.



How Kawah Ijen Erupts

Earth's outer shell is broken into a jigsaw puzzle of several tectonic plates, or gigantic slabs of rock, that move constantly. In Indonesia, the oceanic **Australian plate** slips under the **Eurasian plate** at a **subduction zone**. As the Australian plate slides deep down, heat generated in Earth's interior makes the plate superhot, and parts of it melt. This melted rock, called **magma**, rises toward Earth's surface. Pressure on the magma lessens as it rises, allowing gases inside to expand, which can lead to explosive volcanic eruptions.



FUN FACTS ABOUT INDONESIA

Indonesia is a group of more than 17,500 islands off the coast of Southeast Asia. It is the largest country in the region.

When the volcano on the tiny Indonesian island of **Krakatau** erupted in August 1883, it could be heard thousands of miles away.

The *Rafflesia arnoldii*, the world's largest single flower, grows in Indonesia. The flower smells like rotting meat, can measure 3 feet across, and weighs up to 24 pounds.

Nearly ten million people live in Jakarta, Indonesia's city with the largest population. That's almost two million more people than are living in New York City.

More than 70 active volcanoes are in Indonesia.

Cool Things About AIR FORCE ONE

BY SCOTT ELDER
ART BY CTON

The president of the United States takes a lot of work trips as part of the job. But he doesn't fly business class on a regular plane—he takes his private jet, Air Force One. *National Geographic Kids* went aboard to learn seven reasons why Air Force One is the coolest plane in the air.

PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA HAS FLOWN OVER ONE MILLION MILES ON MORE THAN 940 FLIGHTS ABOARD AIR FORCE ONE.

1

JUMBO JET

Most private planes are small. Air Force One is definitely *not*. The customized 747 airliner, designed to carry up to 102 passengers, has 3 levels, stands as tall as a 6-story building, and is longer than 5 school buses. With a full load Air Force One can weigh up to a whopping 416 tons, which is the equivalent of more than 80 big elephants. In the air it's nimble enough to cruise at more than 600 miles an hour.

1

2

3

4

5

6

2

SUPER FIRST-CLASS

The president doesn't just get a big seat on Air Force One—he gets his own apartment. Located in the nose of the plane under the cockpit, the presidential suite includes a bedroom, a private bathroom with a shower, and enough space to exercise. The first family even has its own entrance to the plane. The president also has a private office, which explains one of the plane's nicknames, "the Flying White House."

3

DOCTOR ON BOARD

Air Force One doesn't have to make an emergency landing if there's a medical issue, because a doctor is on every flight. The clinic has an office with a small pharmacy, blood supplies, and an emergency operating table.

4

AIRPLANE FOOD

Unlike most midair meals, food on Air Force One is fine dining. Among the 26 crew members are cooks and several flight attendants who can serve 100 meals at a time from the airplane's 2 kitchens. The commander in chief can place orders 24/7 for whatever he wants—or doesn't want. (President George H.W. Bush banned broccoli from his flights on Air Force One.)



IT COSTS
ABOUT \$180,000
AN HOUR TO FLY
AIR FORCE ONE.

PRESIDENT OBAMA HAS VISITED MORE THAN 45 COUNTRIES DURING HIS PRESIDENCY.

**MORE ON
PRESIDENTIAL TRAVEL**
natgeo.com/kids/presidents

5

SPARE FORCE ONE

Two Air Force One planes actually exist. Wherever the commander in chief flies, a duplicate plane lands somewhere nearby, ready to take over in case of mechanical problems. Technically, any Air Force plane the president boards becomes "Air Force One," which is a military aircraft identification.

6

NONSTOP FLIGHT

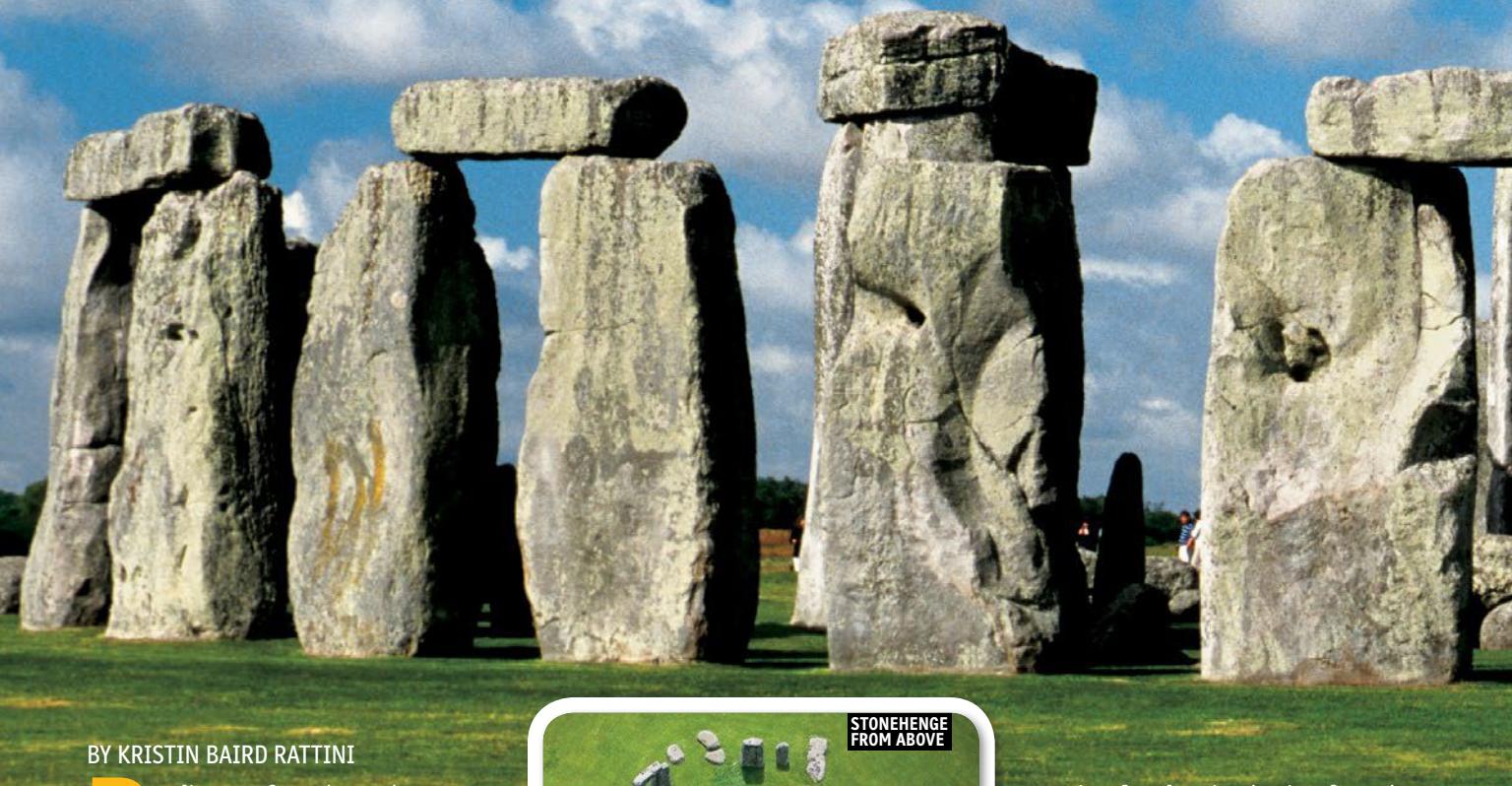
Unlike regular jumbo jets, Air Force One doesn't need to land to refuel. The plane can fill up midair from a flying tanker thanks to a special fuel intake valve built into the plane's nose. Air Force One can travel 7,800 miles on a single 53,000-gallon tank of gas. That amount could fill more than 3,000 cars.

7

LIFT TO THE AIRPORT

The president doesn't have to fight traffic on the way to the airport. He takes his personal helicopter from the White House. Called "Marine One" because it's operated by the Marine Corps, the chopper lands on the White House lawn and ferries him to his flight. When he arrives at his destination, the president's limo and motorcade are waiting—they've been delivered in advance on cargo planes.

THE SECRETS OF STONEHenge



BY KRISTIN BAIRD RATTINI

Dazzling rays from the sun burst through a strange ring of stones set on a grassy field. Some of these rocks rise 20 feet in the air. Others lie scattered on the ground. This huge monument, called Stonehenge, has towered above England's Salisbury Plain for thousands of years—but it's still one of the world's biggest mysteries.

THE UNEXPLAINED

For centuries people have tried to unlock Stonehenge's secrets. A legend from the 12th century claimed that giants placed the monument on a mountain in Ireland, then a wizard named Merlin magically moved the stone circle to England.

Other theories have suggested that migrants from continental Europe built the site as an astronomical observatory or as a temple to the sun and moon gods. No theories have been proven. But a new find may provide more information about the builders of Stonehenge and could help explain why the monument was constructed in this region.



STONEHENGE
FROM ABOVE

HUNTING FOR CLUES

Many scientists had guessed that the builders of Stonehenge were the first to settle the area some 5,000 years ago, around 3000 B.C., when construction on the site began. A recent excavation is making people rethink this idea.

While digging around a spring about a mile and a half from Stonehenge, archaeologist David Jacques and his team uncovered hundreds of bones belonging to aurochs—

a species of cattle twice the size of a modern-day bull that thrived in ancient times. In fact the site, known as Vespasian's Camp, held the largest collection of auroch bones ever found in Europe. That suggests that the spring was a pit stop along an auroch migration route where the animals drank water.

The team also unearthed 31,000 flints, a stone tool used for hunting. "We started to wonder if the area was also a hunting ground and feasting site for ancient people," Jacques says. "Just one auroch could've fed a hundred people, so the place would've been a big draw." One of the excavated flints was made from a type of rock found some 75 miles to the west. "This means people may have traveled from all over to hunt here," Jacques says.

The animal bones and tools date back to 7500 B.C. The age of the artifacts caused Jacques to conclude that people moved to the region around 9,500 years ago—4,500 years earlier than what some had thought—to hunt auroch. And he thinks descendants of these settlers assembled the mysterious stone ring.

STONEHENGE

Could a new discovery help solve this ancient puzzle?



STONEHENGE, THE PREQUEL?

The first settlers may have even had their own early version of Stonehenge. Jacques thinks they set up a group of wooden posts 650 feet from where Stonehenge now stands. At least 8,500 years old, the posts were found during construction of a parking

lot. This wooden monument may have been a tribute to the settlers' ancestors.

Jacques and other scientists will keep digging for more clues that just might solve the mysteries of Stonehenge once and for all. But for now its story isn't written in stone.



AN ILLUSTRATION OF THE MASSIVE AUROCH

Stone Zone

It's too bad a wizard *didn't* help build Stonehenge. It was made with 4,000-pound bluestone rocks, and 50,000-pound sarsen stones.

Funded in part by the National Geographic Society, archaeologist Mike Parker Pearson is studying where the stones originated and how people moved them to their current spot without wheeled vehicles. The sarsens were possibly hauled in on big wooden sleds from 20 miles away. The bluestones were traced to rock outcrops 140 miles away in present-day Wales, in the United Kingdom. Parker Pearson thinks they could have been dragged on sleds to a waterway and then floated on rafts to the building site.

Parker Pearson is also investigating if the bluestones were first set up as circular monuments in Wales, then dismantled and taken to Salisbury Plain. One thing's for sure: The builders must've had rock-hard muscles.

FunStuff

games, laughs, and lots to do!

Noun Town

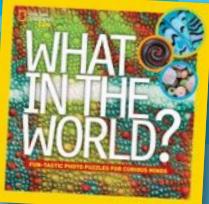
This city is full of nouns, or people, places, and things. But twelve compound nouns—nouns made up of two or more words, or two words combined to make one word—have been drawn exactly as they're named. Can you guess the compound nouns illustrated in each of the numbered scenes? Here's a hint: The answer to number 1 is "sleeping bag."

ANSWERS ON PAGE 35



What in the World?

CHECK OUT
THE BOOK!



WILD RANGE

These photos show close-up views of animals that live in Southeast Asia, a region covering 11 countries including Malaysia, Indonesia, and Vietnam. Unscramble the letters to identify what's in each picture. Bonus: Use the highlighted letters to solve the puzzle below.

ANSWERS ON PAGE 35



N P E H A E T L



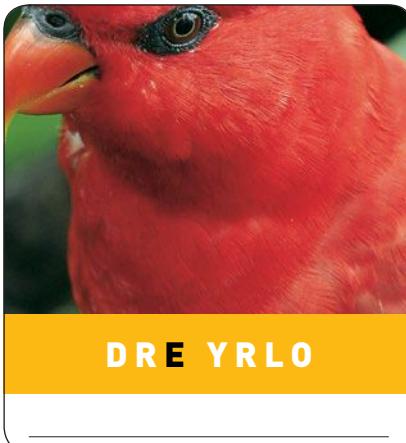
N O B I G B



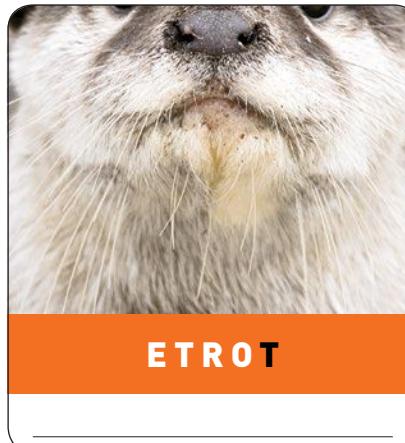
E V I N A K N S E



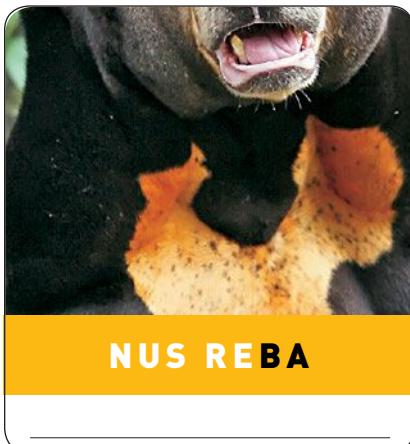
E R O O L C D C I



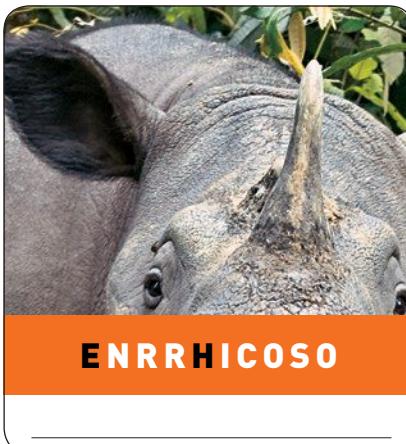
D R E Y R L O



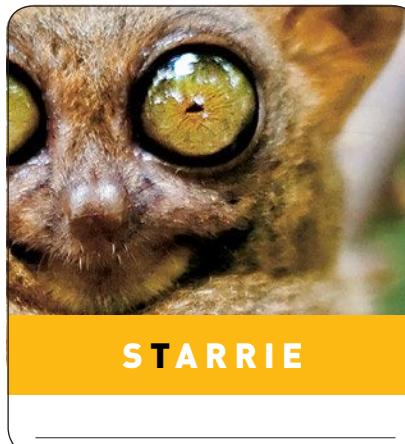
E T R O T



N U S R E B A



E N R R H I C O S O



S T A R R I E

HINT: Why are frogs so happy?

W H T E U Y E H M.

ANSWER: T _ _ _ Y _ E _ _ _
U _ _ _ H M.

TOP ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT): © CAD HAI / DREAMTIME; © KHUNASPIX / DREAMTIME; © LAUREL STEWART / DREAMTIME.
MIDDLE ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT): © WATERFRANE / ALAMY; © SIM KAY SEN / DREAMTIME; © MARK BOWLER / ALAMY;
BOTTOM ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT): ALISTAIR MICHAEL THOMAS / SHUTTERSTOCK; © SUZI ESZTERHAS / CORBIS; © ESTANCABIGAS / ALAMY.

From the pages of QUIZ WHIZ:

STUMP YOUR PARENTS?

If your parents can't answer these questions, maybe they should go to school instead of you!

ANSWERS ON PAGE 35



HOOD

HOODED SEAL



1 When does the hooded seal display its balloon-like "hood"?
A. when it's threatened C. when it's sleeping
B. when it's hungry D. when it's nursing its pups

2 Which playground item is used to describe video games that allow a player to build things?
A. seesaw C. sandbox
B. slide D. jungle gym

3 An ostrich's eyeball is about the size of which of the following?
A. its stomach C. its heart
B. its beak D. its brain

4 What's another name for a kiwi?
A. Chinese gooseberry C. New Zealand melon
B. Irish apple D. Chihuahua dog fruit



5 In the virtual world of *Animal Jam*, the land called Kimbara closely resembles environments found on what real-world continent?
A. Asia C. Europe
B. Australia D. South America

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

Animal Jam®

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MORE QUIZZES!

natgeo.com/kids/games

6 In the movie *101 Dalmatians*, who does Cruella de Vil steal puppies from?
A. Roger and Anita
B. John and Margaret
C. Horace and Jasper
D. Beauty and the Beast

7 Second-class passengers of the R.M.S. *Titanic* had access to all of the following areas except the _____.
A. library
B. barber shop
C. deck
D. gymnasium

8 About how tall was *Brachiosaurus*?
A. 11 feet—about as tall as a Jeep
B. 20 feet—about as tall as a two-story building
C. 40 feet—taller than two giraffes
D. 500 feet—almost as tall as the Washington Monument

9 Before the invention of penicillin, what was often used to treat infections?
A. soup
B. maggots
C. aspirin
D. worms

10 Which of these plants grows in the Grand Canyon?
A. palm tree
B. redwood tree
C. cactus
D. cherry blossom



Funny FILL-IN

It's a Jungle Out There!

BY BECKY BAINES
Ask a friend to give you words to fill in the blanks in this story without showing it to him or her. Then read out loud for a laugh.



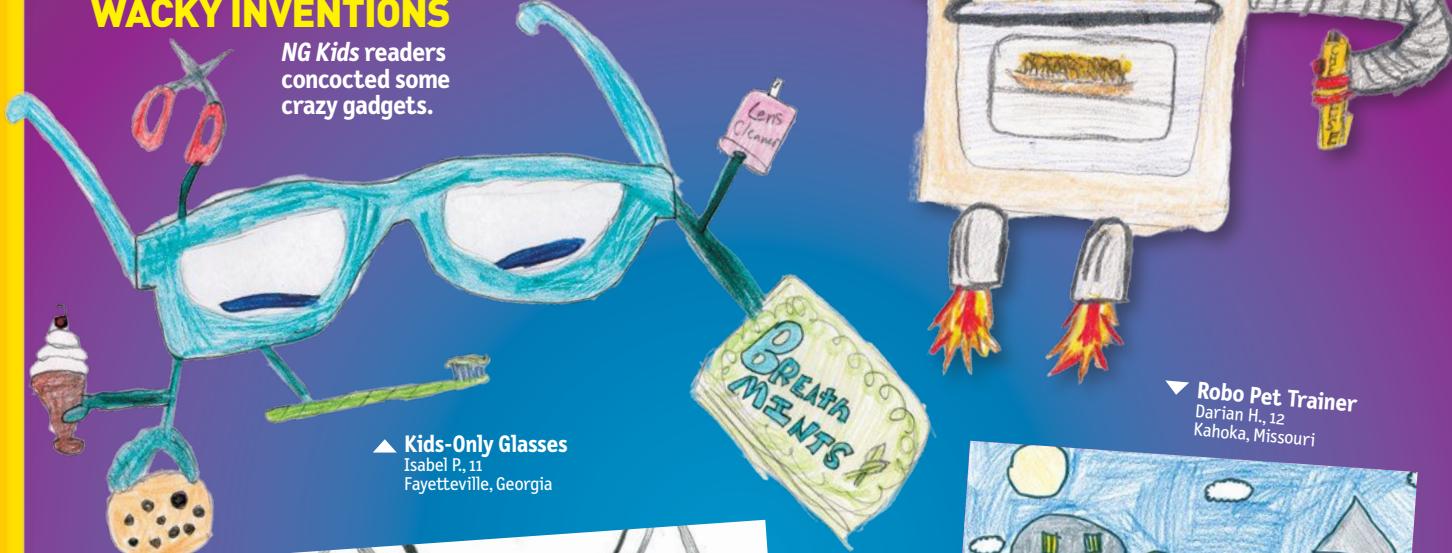
My friends and I _____ a machine that can _____ stuff. But before we could show it off, we had to _____ it. I put a(n) _____ on a table and _____ a button. Then there was a(n) _____ blast. Suddenly I saw green strips towering above me. It was grass—we _____ ourselves! We heard a noise. I turned and saw a(n) _____ with eight eyes. My friend quickly scaled a nearby _____, while the rest of us tied our _____ together to make a rope. Our friend pulled us to safety, with the creature _____ toward us. A(n) _____ picked us up from there, dropping us on top of our machine. We gathered together and _____ on the button. I opened my _____. I was _____ enough to see into my house! Our big adventure had come to a close.



Art Zone

WACKY INVENTIONS

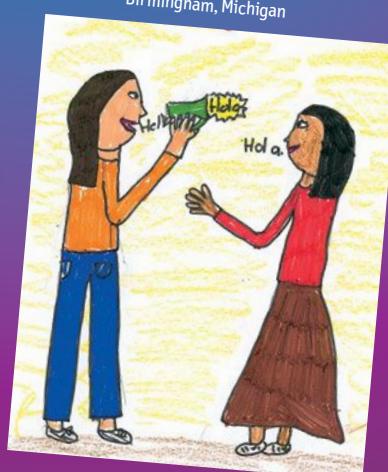
NG Kids readers concocted some crazy gadgets.



Duplicator Ray ▶
Curtice G., 11
Palm Bay, Florida



Language-o-matic
Meghan M., 10
Birmingham, Michigan



Draw a funky new food.

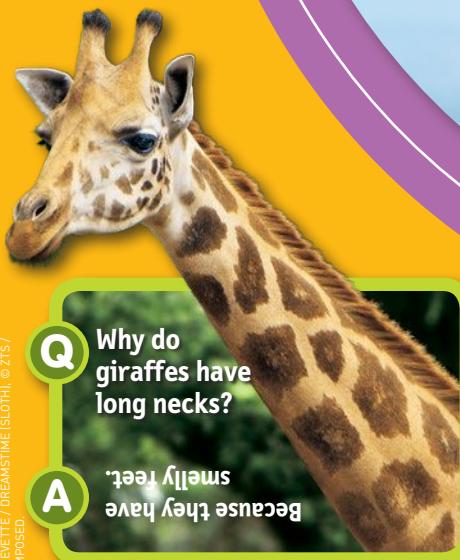
Send us your **original drawings:**
NG Kids—Funky Food Art Zone
P.O. Box 98002
Washington, DC 20090-8002

Include your name, address, phone number, date of birth, a title for your drawing, a statement that it is your own work, and the name of your parent or guardian. Your parent or guardian must sign a release for publication if your illustration is selected. Submissions become the property of the National Geographic Society, and all rights thereto are transferred to the National Geographic Society. Submissions cannot be acknowledged or returned. Selection will be at the discretion of NG Kids.

Just Joking

KNOCK,
KNOCK.

*Who's there?
Avenue.
Avenue who?
Avenue heard enough
of these jokes?*



TONGUE TWISTER!

Say this fast three times:

Kristin's sister's biscuit mixer

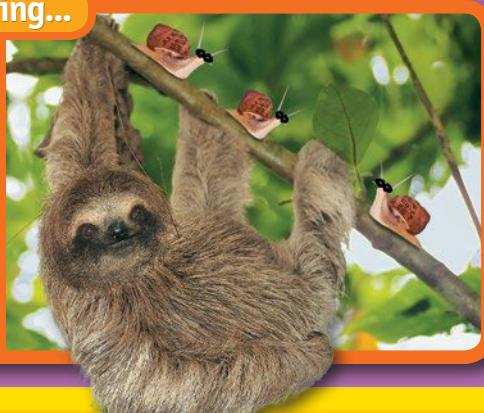


Q What's the difference between Superman and an ordinary man?

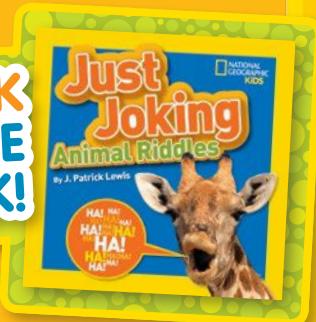


You've got to be joking...

A sloth was climbing a tree when **three snails** attacked him. After **recovering**, he went to the police. An officer asked, "Can you describe the snails?" The sloth replied, "Not well. It all happened **too fast**."



CHECK
OUT THE
BOOK!



My shot



Your photo could be Pharrell's favorite!

We're teaming up with **Pharrell Williams**, who wrote and produced the song "**Happy**," to celebrate the United Nation's **International Day of Happiness** on March 20. To participate, upload photos to My Shot of things that make you happy and tag them with **#happy** by April 1. Pharrell will pick his favorites, and some will be featured in a future issue of *NG Kids* magazine. So grab a parent and go online! ngkidsmyshot.com

EDITOR'S PICK!



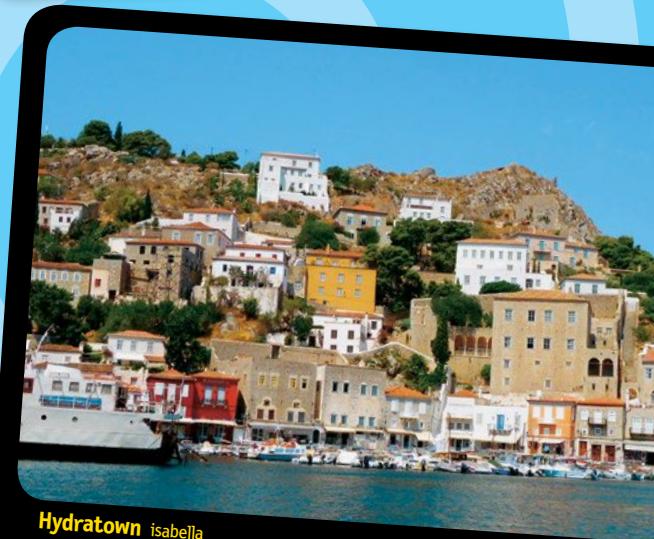
Bullfrog din092



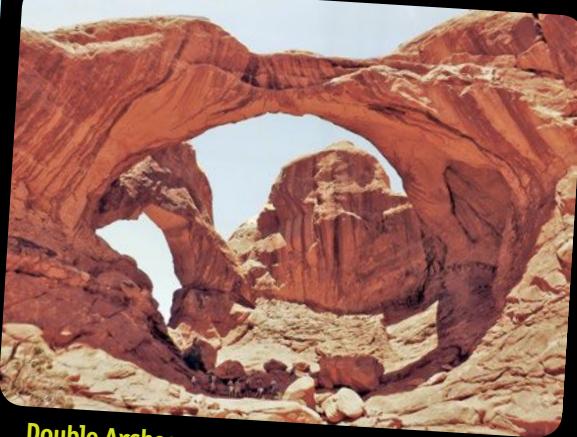
On the Move EvanT



Piano respectthephoenix



Hydratown isabella



Double Arches cloudy



Donkey in Perspective DreamInColour



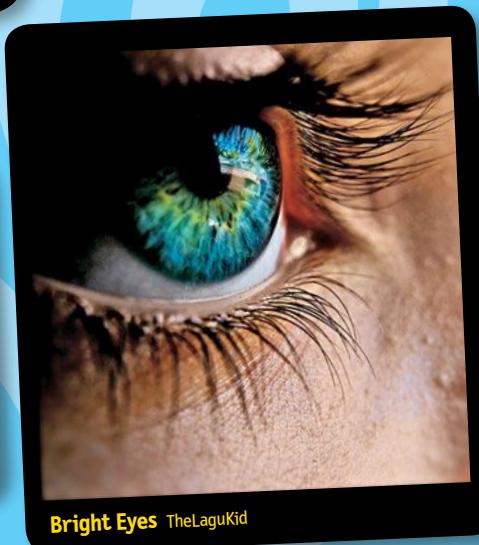
Keep hoping, dreaming, wishing
laLoL :)



Party time? ForTheLoveOfADog



Water on a CD FudgeBoss



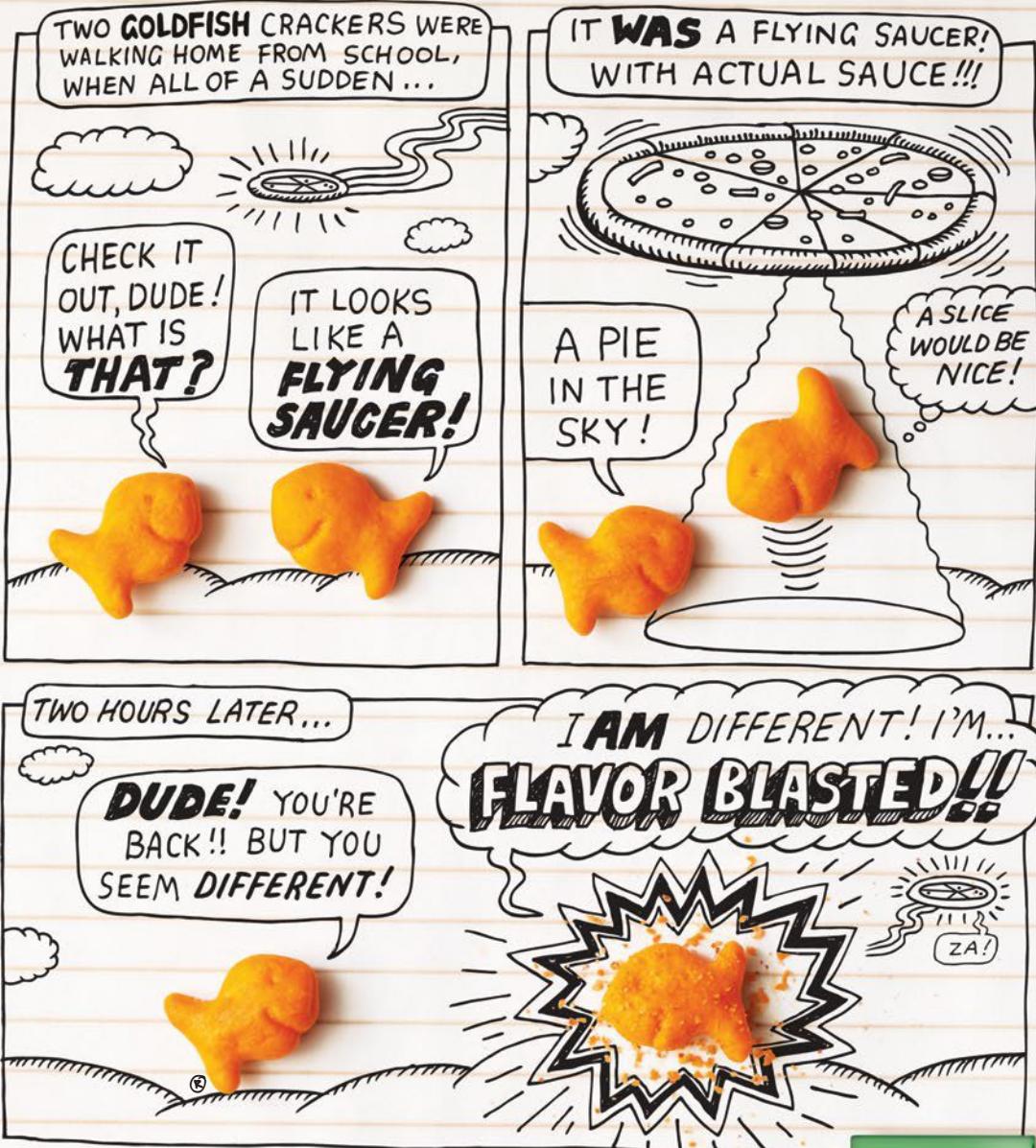
Bright Eyes TheLaguKid

Answers

"**What in the World?**" (page 29):
1. Sleepin' bag, 2. eggplant, 3. crafts,
4. bellop, 5. ladybug, 6. housesworks,
7. butterfy, 8. limeight, 9. arrothead,
10. full moon, 11. sunflower, 12. coffee
table.
"**Slimp Your Parents**" (page 30):
1. A. 2. C. 3. D. 4. A. 5. B. 6. A. 7. D.
8. C. 9. B. 10. C.
Bonus: They eat whatever bugs them.
"**Shake**" (page 31):
Top row: elephant, giraffe, vine
Middle row: crocodile, red
snakes. Bottom row: sun bear,
lory, otter.
"**Noun Town**" (page 28):
The 12 compound nouns are:
1. sunflower, 2. limeight, 3. coffee
table, 4. bellop, 5. eggplant, 6. housesworks,
7. butterfy, 8. limeight, 9. arrothead,
10. full moon, 11. sunflower, 12. coffee
table.

THE ADVENTURES OF GOLDFISH® FLAVOR BLASTED® EXPLOSIVE PIZZA

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